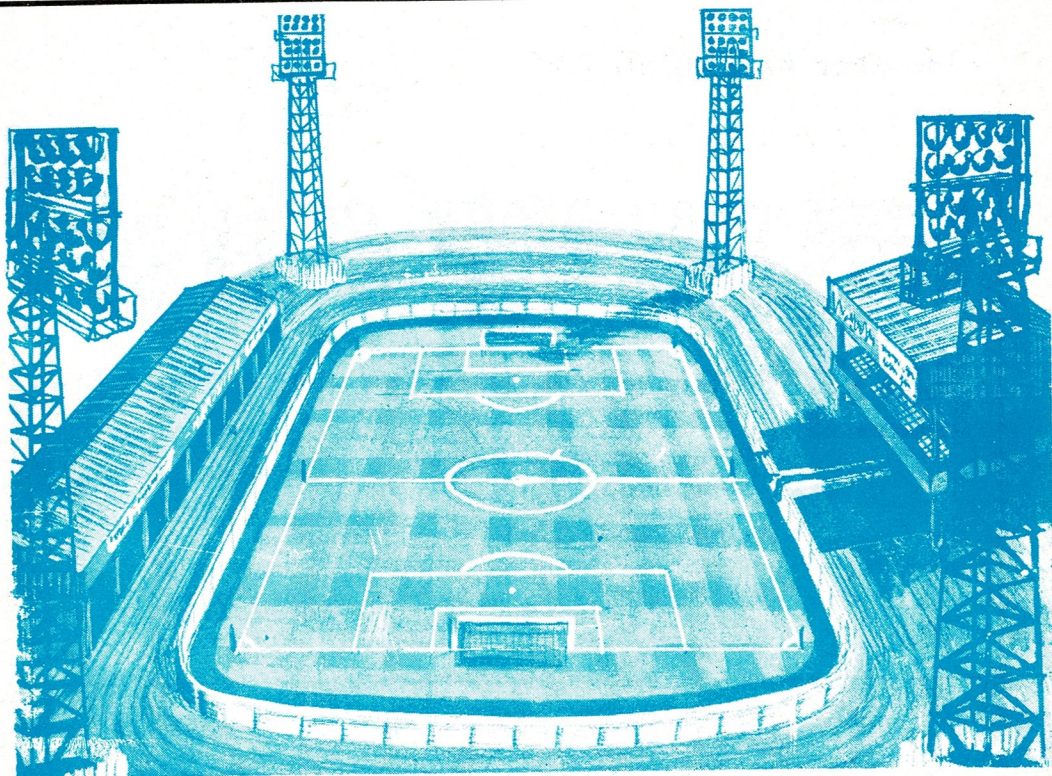


ATHLETIC

WIGAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

v.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN

Saturday, 28th October, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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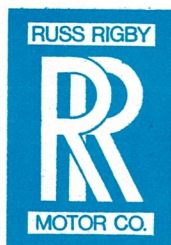
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As the making of footwear is the principal industry of Northampton, it is understandable that town football team is, and has always been, nicknamed "The Cobblers."

Northampton were formed in 1897 by some young schoolmasters interested in schoolboy football. They formed themselves into a team, partly to keep themselves fit but mainly to provide practical demonstration for their scholars; Northampton was probably the first club in England to realise the value of good coaching in the game for youngsters.

After formation the club played in the Midland, and then the Southern League until 1920 when they became founder-members of the Third Division (South). In 1958, after a see-saw existence, they were founder-members of the Fourth Division.

In the middle sixties, Northampton created a sensation by gaining promotion from the 4th Division to 1st Division in successive seasons, but the rapid climb proved too much and in 1969 they were back in the 4th Division.

Their ground is known as the County Ground and is also used by the County Cricket Club.

Around 1923 Northampton visited Springfield Park in the F.A. Cup 1st Round proper, and trounced the then Wigan Borough by 6 goals to nil. After that game they transferred both their wingers, namely Page and Pease, to Middlesborough for a substantial figure in those days.

Before today's game Northampton were tenth in the League placings with 15 points. Out of the seven games they have played away, one has been won and two drawn. They have not yet lost a game on their own ground.

Although as previously stated, Northampton have on one occasion played at Springfield Park, this is the first occasion they have met Wigan Athletic in any competition. We do, therefore, welcome their directors, officials and players today and hope the game provides good entertainment for today's crowd which we hope will be above our present average of 6,126.

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A word from the Manager

This afternoon I would like to welcome Northampton Town to Springfield Park. By their results so far this season it looks as if they are playing attacking football. In their previous away game they lost 4-3 to Grimsby Town. So all in all I am looking for an entertaining game this afternoon.

ROSES MATCHES

So far this season we are coming out well in our matches against the White Rose county. We have beaten York and Halifax and drawn with Barnsley and Huddersfield. Our only reverse has been to Bradford City.

Last Saturday's match at Barnsley was a big test for our lads and they came through with flying colours. Obviously everything is not perfect as yet, but we are definitely on the upgrade.

The players are gaining in confidence all the time. However, when you look at the League and realise we are only four points from fifth place, we are only three points clear of the fourth bottom place, so there is no way we can afford to become complacent.

BOOKINGS

Much has been said in the last week about the bookings taking place in League football. In fact although we are at times incensed by some refereeing decisions regarding cautions, it is obvious they are only obeying instructions, as it is general throughout the country. I certainly do not think that our game is over physical or dirty, and I am sure everything will gradually settle and we will get on with the game.

Enjoy today's match.

IAN McNEILL, Manager.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Next Home Match—

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

SATURDAY, 18th NOVEMBER, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

WIGAN ATHLETIC v. READING

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

SATURDAY, 11th NOVEMBER, 1978 — Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

WIGAN ATHLETIC RESERVES v. TRANMERE ROVERS RESERVES

GOING AWAY BY CAR ?

For those fans wishing to travel by car to the match at Newport on Friday, 10th Nov., the RAC route guide is as follows: Take the M6 Motorway and link up with the M5 (Southbound), then the M4 (Westbound). Leave the M4 Motorway at Intersection No. 24 as signposted "Newport A.48". Enter Newport on the A.48 Chepstow Road. Turn left into Somerton Road to Somerton Park and Newport County A.F.C. ground.

Focus on JEFF WRIGHT

<i>Full Name :</i>	Jeffrey Kenneth Wright.
<i>Birthplace :</i>	Alston, Cumbria.
<i>Birthdate :</i>	23rd June, 1952.
<i>Height :</i>	6 ft. 0 ins.
<i>Weight :</i>	11 st. 10 lbs.
<i>Previous Clubs :</i>	Tow Law (Northern League), Netherfield.
<i>Married :</i>	Yes, to Rachel.
<i>Children :</i>	No.
<i>Car :</i>	Volkswagen Beetle 1300.
<i>Favourite player :</i>	Trevor Brooking.
<i>Favourite other team :</i>	Sunderland.
<i>Most difficult opponent :</i>	They are all the same.
<i>Most memorable match :</i>	v. Birmingham, 3rd Round FA Cup.
<i>Biggest thrill :</i>	Winning The Northern Premier League.
<i>Biggest disappointment :</i>	
<i>Best country visited :</i>	Switzerland and France.
<i>Favourite food :</i>	Steak, Cheese, Cumberland Sausage.
<i>Miscellaneous likes :</i>	Listening to records, going out for meals.
<i>Miscellaneous dislikes :</i>	Smoking Bigheads.
<i>Favourite TV shows :</i>	Kenny Everett Video Show, George & Mildred.
<i>Favourite singers :</i>	Barbara Dickson, E.L.O., Lindisfarne.
<i>Favourite actors :</i>	Clint Eastwood, Charles Bronson, Sus. George
<i>Best friend:</i>	I hope I have many.
<i>Biggest influence on career :</i>	Nobody in particular.
<i>Biggest drag in soccer :</i>	Long coach trips and losing a match.
<i>International honours :</i>	F.A. XI v. UAU, March 1978.
<i>Personal ambition :</i>	To play at Wembley.
<i>Professional ambition :</i>	To win a trophy in the League with Wigan Ath.
<i>If not in football, what would you like to be :</i>	Deckhand on a submarine.
<i>Which person in the world would you most like to meet :</i>	The Queen.

Pen Pictures of Northampton Town A.F.C.

CARL JAYES, goalkeeper. Previously played for Leicester City and made five first team appearances. An ever-present first team member.

TONY GEIDMINTIS, full-back. Born in London. Professional career began at Workington with whom he made 300 appearances, then at Watford, and was secured by us in the 1977/78 season. A regular first team player.

PETER MEAD, full-back. Signed from Luton Town being his only other professional club. He was transferred to Northampton in the 1977/78 season. A regular first team player.

ALAN WOOLLETT, defender. Secured at the start of the season 1978/79. Played for Leicester and had considerable first team experience with them, having had over 200 appearances for them.

PAUL SAUNDERS, midfield/defender. Previously played for Watford and secured by us this season.

STEVE BRYANT, full-back. Born in Islington. A constant first team player with experience with Birmingham City from whom he was secured in 1976/77.

JOHN FARRINGTON, outside-right. Born in Lynmouth. He has played professionally for Wolverhampton Wanderers, Leicester City and Cardiff City. He was secured by us in part-exchange for John Buchanan, and is an ever present first team player.

KEITH WILLIAMS, mid-field player. Born in Burtonwood and was brought from Aston Villa in 1977. He is a regular first team player.

JOHN FROGATT, striker.

GEORGE REILLY, striker/centre-back. Born in Bellshill. Signed professional forms in May 1976. Previously played with Corby Town, and plays in many positions. Was the top scorer last season with the first team.

DERRICK CHRISTIE, mid-field player. Born in Bletchley. Signed on schoolboy forms and on leaving school signed apprenticeship forms, and then professional. He has also played over 100 first team matches. Very quick with good ball control.

NEIL CORDICE.

DAVID LIDDLE, utility defender. Born in Malta. Signed as an apprentice in 1973 and last season made many appearances in the first team in various positions.

ANDY MCGOWAN, midfield player. Born in Corby. Played for Corby Town and secured by Northampton at the commencement of season 1975/76. Previously had Youth International caps, a regular first team player.

JAMES McNICKOL, centre-back. Born in Greenoch. Was secured from Corby Town at commencement of season 1975/76. Signed professional forms May 1976. Previously a part-time player but is now a full-time professional.

ANDREW POOLE, goalkeeper. Signed for Northampton at commencement of this season. Was previously apprentice for Mansfield.

STUART ROBERTSON, centre-back. Born Nottingham. First joined Notts Forest as an amateur, leaving them to go to Doncaster Rovers. Was purchased by us in season 1972/73. An ever present first team member who has made over 200 league appearances for Northampton.

RICKY WALKER, full-back. Born Northampton. Was previously with Coventry City and secured by us at the beginning of this season.

KIM WASSELL, midfield player. Born Birmingham and was an apprentice with West Brom. Signed as a non-contract player. Signed professional forms this season.

NEW AND REBUILT

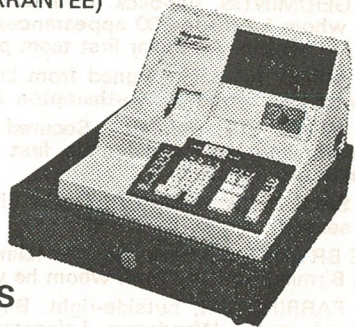
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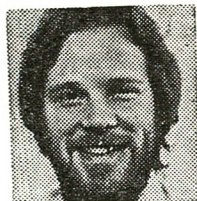
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LATICS LINE

by Nick Duxbury



A stranger looking at Latics collection of yellow cards could be forgiven for assuming that the men from Springfield Park are hell bent on lifting the title of Division 4 bad boys.

With 22 bookings from 17 league and cup games it would appear that Latics elevation to soccer's big time has left them prepared to meet force with more force.

Latics had three or more players booked in a single game for the third time this season at Barnsley last Saturday, and such a high yellow card count with the first campaign barely two months old doesn't auger well for the future.

On paper the record is bad, but of course anyone who has seen Latics play will know that a label announcing them to be either a physical or 'dirty' side would be ludicrous.

But if Latics are not guilty of being 'over-competitive', how come referees seem to delight in jotting down the names of the League newboys?

This season has seen a clampdown on dissent and in the early days, Latics found out the hard way that any 'disagreement' with the referee had only one outcome—the yellow card.

Gradually the message went home, but still the bookings have not dropped with Latics now finding that interpretations of what is and what is not a bad tackle can vary just as much between referees as they can among fans on the terraces.

So Latics continue to pile up the bookings, which, at the present rate, will shortly mean suspension, and it's a situation which exasperates both manager and players.

Ian McNeill said: "It is very annoying when a player is booked for what appears to everyone but the referee to be a fair tackle and then later on really bad tackles are allowed to go unpunished.

"But there is nothing you can do about it. If the manager complains, he would end up booked as well. All you can do is hope that every match will have a good referee, but so far we haven't seen too many good referees.

WE ARE BACKING "LATICS" ALL THE WAY

Home and Away — read NICK DUXBURY in Wigan's own

Evening Post & Chronicle

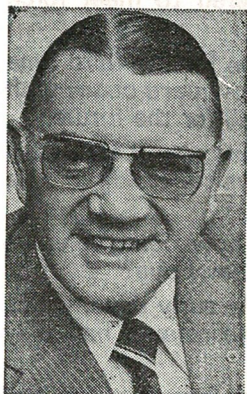
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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

After 16 days away, and three games missed, what better homecoming than a draw at Barnsley. This was a point well won and thoroughly deserved against possibly the strongest side in Division 4. We have now, I think, silenced our critics, as ten points from the last 14 with only two goals against (one of those a penalty) is promotion form. I sincerely hope we can keep up this challenge. It is now becoming easier to assess our ability as the fixtures have already paired us against the present top five clubs in the League.

Today is the last fixture in October and should we win or draw we will have gone through the month without defeat, and it could be possible that our manager will qualify for the manager of the month award. Should Ian McNeill achieve this it will be a remarkable feat in the third month of the season without any really big signing.

November brings "fog and cold"—it also brings F.A. Cup-ties and we shall be eagerly watching the results in the 4th Qualifying Round, as the winners all go into the hat with 3rd and 4th Division clubs. Will we draw Chorley, Altrincham or some other non-league club, or will it be as last year a football league side? Personally, I don't think it matters if we are at home, but a draw to a non-league club away could be disturbing—financially or otherwise. Last Saturday the Barnsley chairman discussed this subject, as two years ago they were beaten at Marine with the financial return anything but good.

Spectators today will see that our floodlights have been brought up to modern standard. The expense has been rather high but it had to be done as our old fittings and bulbs had become obsolete, and the new lights will allow one of our games to be televised should we be chosen by Granada sometime during the season.

May I take this opportunity of welcoming the Northampton directors and players to Springfield Park today—with visitors who have never met Wigan Athletic before and our past five results—the game should bring in one of the best, if not the best gate of the season.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV
SATURDAY, 28th OCTOBER, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Line-up

WIGAN ATHLETIC

(Blue and White Stripes)

- 1 John Brown
- 2 Kevin Smart
- 3 Joe Hinnigan
- 4 Tommy Gore
- 5 Noel Ward
- 6 Dave Fretwell
- 7 Frank Corrigan
- 8 Jeff Wright
- 9 Mickey Moore
- 10 Derek Brownbill
- 11 Ian Purdie
- 12 Peter Houghton

NORTHAMPTON TOWN

- 1 Carl Jayes
- 2 Tony Geidmintis
- 3 Peter Mead
- 4 Alan Woollett
- 5 Paul Saunders
- 6 Steve Bryant
- 7 John Farrington
- 8 Keith Williams
- 9 John Frogatt
- 10 George Reilly
- 11 Derrick Christie
- 12 Neil Cordice

Referee: Mr. T. MILLS (Barnsley)

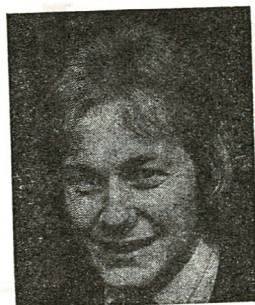
Linesmen: Mr. B. Davies (Ruthin) Red Flag
Mr. G. Boothman (Burnley) Yellow Flag

MILLS, TELFORD (Barnsley). Started refereeing in the Barnsley & District Leagues, then progressed through Barnsley & Sheffield Leagues on to the Central and then Football League list. Officiated in a UEFA Cup game in 1976 and FA Challenge Trophy semi-final in 1977. Refereed Football League quarter-final in 1978.

A married man, with one son, he is an insurance representative. He is Captain of Barnsley Cricket Club, with other interests in deep sea fishing, squash and gardening.

OPINION

by Harold Ashurst



At the time of writing these notes manager Ian McNeill has a team selection problem, but, it is one he is delighted to have.

For the first time this season all the players on the club's books are fit, something that all football managers would give their right arm for.

The longest injury casualty has been Peter Houghton who was out for weeks after being bundled over the touchline at Luton and breaking his wrist.

Although Peter's injury is not healed completely, he can play and has had a run out in the reserves and two first team appearances as substitute in a bid to get match fitness.

Neil Davids foot injury has cleared up after keeping him out of the side for three weeks and all the knocks, aches and bruises that players get in a match and carry for a couple of weeks have cleared up. That leaves a clean bill of health and Mr. McNeill will no doubt have many permutations in mind as he thinks of teams in the future.

One thing has come out thanks to the injuries. We know that players who are injured from the first team will have a fight on their hands to get back in the side, such is the depth emerging in Wigan's squad.

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RESULTS 1978-79

HOME MATCHES IN CAPITALS

[illegible]

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978		
August—		F-A
18—Blackpool 'A'	H	2-1
25—Southport Res.	H	1-1
September—		
2—Everton 'A'	A	2-1
9—Chester 'A'	H	1-3
15—Tranmere R. Res.	A	0-0
16—		
23—Bradford City Res.	H	5-0
30—Liverpool 'A'	A	1-2
October—		
7—Rochdale Res.	H	2-2
14—Rochdale Res.	A	0-1
21—Carlisle Utd. Res.	H	2-0
27—Stockport County 'A'	A (Fri.)	
November—		
11—Tranmere R. Res.	H	
18—Crewe Alex 'A'	A	
25—Manchester City 'A'	A	
December—		
2—Blackpool 'A'	A	
9—Port Vale Res.	H	
16—Chester 'A'	A	
23—Macclesfield T. Res.	H	
26—		
30—Morecambe Res.	A	

1979		
January—		F-A
1—Oldham Ath. Res.	H (Mn.)	
6—Morecambe Res.	H	
13—Port Vale Res.	A	
20—Manchester City 'A'	H	
27—Macclesfield T. Res.	A	
February—		
3—Bradford City Res.	A	
10—Crewe Alex Res.	H	
17—Manchester Utd. 'A'	A	
24—Oldham Ath. Res.	A	
March—		
3—Carlisle Res.	A	
10—Stockport County 'A'	H	
17—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	H	
24—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	A	
31—Wrexham Res.	A	
April—		
7—Manchester Utd. 'A'	H	
13—Southport Res.	A (Fri.)	
15—Wrexham Res.	H	
16—		
21—Liverpool 'A'	H	
28—		
May—		
5—Everton 'A'	H	

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

(up to and including 21st October, 1978)

	Home					Away					Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	
Wimbledon	14	6	1	0	14	5	3	3	1	11	8 22
Reading	14	7	0	0	16	1	2	3	2	8	9 21
Grimsby	14	4	1	2	15	8	4	2	1	10	4 19
Barnsley	14	4	2	1	13	6	3	3	1	7	4 19
Portsmouth	14	5	1	1	10	2	3	1	3	12	12 18
Stockport	14	5	1	1	13	2	1	3	3	8	11 16
Aldershot	14	3	3	1	11	5	2	3	2	7	8 16
Torquay	14	4	1	1	10	4	3	1	4	8	14 16
Northampton	14	4	3	0	14	6	1	2	4	8	13 15
Hartlepool	14	2	3	2	10	10	3	2	2	6	10 15
Hereford	14	3	4	0	9	2	2	0	5	7	9 14
Bournemouth	14	4	1	2	11	5	1	3	3	3	5 14
Scunthorpe	14	5	0	2	12	7	0	4	3	4	8 14
Port Vale	14	0	5	2	9	11	4	0	3	14	8 13
WIGAN ATHLETIC	14	4	0	3	9	9	1	3	3	3	6 13
York	14	3	2	2	9	9	2	1	4	5	12 13
Newport	14	1	2	4	7	11	3	2	2	11	10 12
Huddersfield	14	4	3	1	12	6	0	0	6	3	12 11
Dorchester	14	2	4	2	9	9	1	1	4	6	13 11
Bradford City	14	3	1	3	12	11	2	0	5	7	16 11
Crewe	14	2	1	4	10	15	1	4	2	5	12 11
Darlington	14	1	3	3	4	6	2	1	4	7	11 10
Rochdale	14	1	3	3	5	9	0	3	4	3	14 8
Halifax	14	1	1	4	3	9	0	1	7	5	18 4

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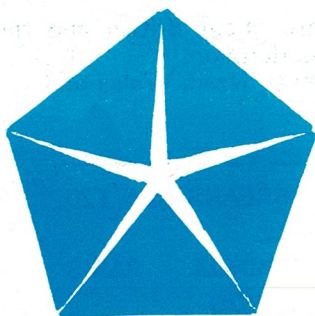
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